

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01131 071558Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

SAJ-01 IO-10 SAM-01 OES-03 COA-01 OMB-01 FEAE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NIC-01 ACDA-05 DLOS-03

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R 071510Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7882

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1131

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GOT RESPONSE ON SUBMISSION OF AEGEAN ISSUE TO ICJ

REF: ANKARA 1089

1. MFA SPOKESMAN AKBIL ISSUED OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON BEFRUARY
6 ON GOT RESPONSE TO GREEK REQUEST TO SUBMIT AEGEAN DISPUTES TO
INTERNTIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ).

2. STATEMENT SAID: "THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS WELCOMED
THE GREEK SUGGESTION TO SETTLE THE QUESTION OF THE DEMARCATION
OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE AEGEAN IN PEACEFUL WAYS. IN
THE TURKISH NOTE ANSWERING THE GREEK CALL FOR JOINT APPLICATION
TO THE ICJ ON THE AEGEAN QUESTION, IT IS NOTED THAT THERE IS
NO OTHER WAY BUT TO SOLVE DISPUTES THROUGH NEGOTIATION.

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 01131 071558Z

INSPIRED BY THIS APPROACH AND KEEPING IN VIEW THE SPECIAL

GEOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE OF THE AEGEAN AND THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES, THE EXTENT OF TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE AEGEAN AS WELL AS THE UTILIZATION OF AIRSPACE IN THE AEGEAN, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WILL AGREE TO CONDUCT URGENT TALKS WITH TURKEY WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FINDING A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE AND SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF QUESTION...THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS WELCOMED IN PRINCIPLE THE GREEK PROPOSAL TO GO JOINTLY TO THE ICJ WITH THE DISAGREEMENT OVER THE DEMARCATION OF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF. TO THIS END, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE DISPUTED TOPICS AND CONDITIONS TO BE TAKEN TO THE SAID COURT, AND ALSO KEEPING IN VIEW THE POLITICAL NATURE AND VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT, TURKEY PROPOSES CONDUCTING TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AT THE MINISTREIAL LEVEL."

3. COMMENT: THIS STATEMENT ISSUED PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, LAYS STRESS ON NEED FOR PRELIMINARY TALKS, WHILE SOYLEMEZ IN GIVING US INITIAL NEWS OF RESPONSE (REFTEL) STRESSED POSITIVE ACCEPTANCE OF ICJ PROPOSAL. OTHER MFA AND ACADEMIC SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT IN PREPARING RESPONSE, GOT CAREFULLY MADE IT SUFFICIENTLY VAGUE TO PRESERVE OPTIONS REGARDING ICJ. NO DOUBT IRMAK GOVERNMENT ALSO IS CONCERNED WITH NEED TO PROTECT ITSELF AGAINST CRITICISM BY REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY, WHICH STRONGLY SUPPORTS "NEGOTIATIONS-FIRST" APPROACH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AEGEAN SEA, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA01131
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750046-0016
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750264/aaaacfmcl
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ANKARA 1089
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <08 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOT RESPONSE ON SUBMISSION OF AEGEAN ISSUE TO ICJ
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, COJ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006